



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2001

For Information Contact Public Affairs
Mike Johns (602) 514-7566

GLENDAL, AZ WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on June 19, 2001 **MARILYN ELIZABETH RICHARDSON** entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$84,057.00. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Theft of Government Property.

According to the Indictment, **RICHARDSON**, whose name was on a joint account with her deceased mother, continued to receive and spend for his own personal use Social Security Widow's benefits deposited into her deceased mother's account. **RICHARDSON** admitted to concealing her mother's death from the Social Security Administration in order to withdraw and use the funds. Sentencing before United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll is scheduled for August 27, 2001. **RICHARDSON** faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The criminal prosecution is the result of a joint effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General to identify

and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs. The prosecution is being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-351-PHX-EHC

RELEASE NUMBER 2001-063